

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 01893 071001Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----072352Z 070380 /61

R 061725Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6398

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 1893

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US SF ML
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER

REF: STATE 099551

1. IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR
BRIEFED PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE MAY 6 COONCERNING VICE
PRESIDENT'S IMPENDING MEETING IN VIENNA WITH SOUTH AFRICAN
PRIME MINISTER.

2. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT SAID HE APPRECIATED
AMERICAN EFFORT AND OUR DESIRE KEEP GOVERNMENT OF MALI IN-
FORMED. HE WAS SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD
RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH. THE
UNITED STATES, MALI, AND SOUTH AFRICA ALL HAD MULTIRACIAL
SOCIETIES, HE SAID, BUT SOUTH AFRICA HAD A DIFFERENT OUT-
LOOK AND REFUSED TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO MAKE ITS
SOCIETY WORK. HE DOUBTED THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER
WOULD BE WILLING TO CHANGE HIS MENTALITY COMPLETELY, AS
WOULD BE REQUIRED.

3. MALI, PRESIDENT TRAORE SAID, HAD NO INTEREST IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA EXCEPT TO SEE THE RESTORATION OF THE
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DIGNITY OF MAN, AND DID NOT THINK MALI COULD HAVE ANY
EFFECT ON THE SITUATION. APARTHEID WAS DEGRADING, AND
THE FACT THAT NAMIBIA WAS STILL A COLONY DESPITE THE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WAS HUMILIATING. MALI MADE
A CAREFUL DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE ILLEGAL REGIMES OF
RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH
AFRICA, BUT IT WANTED RAPID CHANGE IN ALL THREE. MALI

SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A DIALOUGE WITH SOUTH AFRICA BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS CONSIDERED THEIR INTERLOCUTORS AS EQUALS.

4. UNLIKE MALI, THE PRESIDENT SAID, THE UNITED STATES WAS A GREAT POWER AND HAD MANY MEANS OF INFLUENCING SOUTH AFRICA. IN 1972, TRAORE COMMENTED, BECAUSE OF FRANCE'S GOOD RECORD OF DECOLONIZATION IN AFRICA HE HAD URGED PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TO GET PORTUGAL TO FREE ITS AFRICAN COLONIES, FOR OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE BLOODSHED.FRANCE HAD DEMURRED, AND THE PREDICTED BLOODSHED HAD FOLLOWED.

5. VIOLENCE WAS NO SOLUTION, MALIAN PRESIDENT SAID, BUT IF BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CONCLUDED VIOLENCE WAS ONLY ROUTE LEFT OPEN TO THEM, THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD GUERRILLA WAR, MUCH KILLING, BIG-POWER INVOLVEMENT. WAR AND VIOLENCE WERE TO BE AVOIDED. THE UNITES STATES HAD THE MEANS.

6. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED AT VARIOUS POINTS THAT SERIOUS AMERICAN EFFORT WAS DESIGNED TO DO JUST THAT AND THAT UNITED STATES HAD DEEP COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

7. WHILE HIS CONTINUING SKEPTICISM CONCERNING SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSIVENESS WAS VERY EVIDENT, PRESIDENT TRAORE AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN UNDERTAKING AND VOICED HOPE FOR FAVORABLE RESULTS FROM VIENNA MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PERSONAL OPINION, BRIEFINGS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAMAKO01893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-1101
Format: TEL
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770587/aaaacxcy.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 44cc8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 99551
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2621749
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, SF, ML, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (TRAORE, MOUSSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/44cc8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009